

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Gerald Ford
Senator Harry Byrd
Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

December 13, 1974 - Friday

PLACE:

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

Byrd: What do you want help on?

President: Do you want a list? First of all the Trade Bill and EXIM.

Byrd: We have resolved EXIM.

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President: Will you vote for cloture?

Byrd: I would rather not, but if it is important to you, I will.

President: I would appreciate it, because if we don't it will be behind
the other bills in the schedule.

Do you have any questions on Vladivostok?

Byrd: I have some in mind, but I don't know the details.

President: Let me give you the background. They are ahead in launchers
and they have a big program underway. We ended up with agreement on a
ceiling of 2400 -- which is about 150 less than the Soviets have now and
about 200 more than our program. They have a heavy MIRV program.
Their minimum program, according to CIA, would be above the 1320.
They dropped their demands for compensation for FBS and the British
and French forces. They do have more throwweight, but if we need more
throwweight, we have the flexibility to have it and we can increase the size
of our missiles in our silos. If our military think it is necessary, I will
support it.

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Byrd: Was an effort made to keep the ceiling lower than 1320?

President: We tried to get the ceilings on everything as low as possible. This was the best we could do. They have a military-industrial complex too.

I don't want to kid you we can get further reductions, but we will negotiate on it.

Byrd: Will it be a treaty or executive agreement?

President: The Senate would have a chance to vote, whatever we do.

Byrd: It sounds good to me. I would have liked lower numbers.

President: Without the agreement, the Soviet numbers would have increased rapidly. We have capped that. The people who are complaining are the least likely to agree to the increases in the Defense budget that would have been needed if we didn't get the agreement.

Byrd: I want to help any way I can.

President: Thank you. I appreciate it.

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